

## **Training cactus as forage for the Tonokoté community Red Cross Argentine and Universidad Nacional de Santiago del Estero (UNSE)**

Link: [https://www.nuevodiarioweb.com.ar/provinciales/se-organizo-una-nueva-capacitacion-para-la-comunidad-de-pozo-mositoj-sobre-tuna-como-forraje.htm#goog\\_rewarded](https://www.nuevodiarioweb.com.ar/provinciales/se-organizo-una-nueva-capacitacion-para-la-comunidad-de-pozo-mositoj-sobre-tuna-como-forraje.htm#goog_rewarded)

A new training for the community of Pozo Mositoj Argentine Red Cross Argentine (Santiago del Estero) coordinated a training on “Cactus as Forage” for the Tonokoté community within the framework of the Allichakuna (Healing Land) project.

With the participation of the Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Agronomy and Agroindustries of UNSE and FAO-ICARDA CactusNet, Dr. Judith Ochoa, Argentine Red Cross Argentine (Santiago del Estero Branch), held a training on Cactus as Forage for the Tonokote community of “Pozo Mositoj”, San Martín Department Santiago del Estero, Argentine.

Judith Ochoa, shared with the community of Pozo Mositoj, her vast experience on the cultivation of cactus pear, exposing its properties and the alternatives for its use as complementary forage for large and small livestock, with the purpose that the community of Pozo Mositoj, learn about and value the possibilities offered by this multipurpose rustic crop, perfectly compatible with our climate and soil.

“For the Argentine Red Cross and all of us who are part of the Allichakuna project, it is a true luxury to have the experience of a professional like Dr. Ochoa, whose experience is required internationally in this crop” said Dr. Alejandro Scarano, President of the Santiago del Estero of the Argentine Red Cross.

For her part, Dr. Judith Ochoa shared with this medium that the cactus pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) is a cactus that grows in areas with scarcely fertile soils and resists without problem the high temperatures of our region and the scarcity of water during the period. It is a species valued by international fruit growers as an excellent productive option in arid and semi-arid regions, which is why it is expanding commercially in Mexico and the United States. This crop is traditional in our province and is part of our folklore.

After the training, the attendees moved to a community field where a practical demonstration of the implementation of the stalks (cladodes) from the Nursery of the Faculty of Agronomy and Agroindustry of the UNSE was carried out.

"These cladodes are taken to the field "after the cut has healed and the property must be fenced because they are a delicacy for the animals," explained Dr. Ochoa.

Finally, the President of the Red Cross thanked the Faculty of Agronomy and Agroindustry of the UNSE, for the generosity of sharing the cactus pear plants planted and the qualified experience of Dr. J. Ochoa to transmit her knowledge with simplicity and clarity and, as always, to the community of Pozo Mositoj, for the warmth with which they always receive us.

